

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0008] partnerships or alliances in which two or more companies work collaboratively and leverage their capabilities, while remaining separate and distinct entities (e.g., ~~strategie-~~ ~~outsourcing,~~ e-marketplace, joint venture, venture capital funding for an entrepreneurial venture); and

[0040] In a first phase of the method of the present invention, a practices charter defining a future state of business practices is developed. Goals and intent for synchronizing a combined business entity, collaborating effort of a combined or distinct business entities, or transformations of all or units within a single entity, are elicited via interviews with key leaders of a participating entity or entities. Synchronizing goals are applied to business situations including, but not limited to: mergers, acquisitions, partnerships, joint ventures, alliances, ~~outsourcing,~~ e-marketplace; vision, mission, strategy, improvement, growth or contraction transformation; bankruptcy restructuring and recovery, business model or organizational restructuring, start-up companies, venture capital investments, and initial public offerings (IPO). Along with goals, additional supporting information indicating priorities and intent of entities involved in synchronization is obtained. In the second step, detailed alternatives statements supporting elucidated goals and priorities and embodying reasonable perspectives are derived.